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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/428,918	04/25/1995	ROBERT R. REAVER	REAV-35008	5672

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EXAMINER
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ROWAN, KURT C

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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MAILED

MAR 09 2009

CENTRAL REEXAMINATION UNIT

In re Application of  
Robert R. Reaver et al.  
Application No. 08/428,918  
Filed: April 25, 1995  
Atty. Docket No.: REAV-35008

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: ORDER TO  
: SHOW CAUSE  
:  
:

This is a show cause order based on the expiration of U.S. Patent No. 5,207,018, for which patent the present application requests reissue.

### BACKGROUND

1. Reissue application No. 08/428,918 ("the '918 reissue application") was filed on April 25, 1995, for reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,207,018 ("the '018 patent") issued May 4, 1993.
2. The '918 reissue application is pending. The Image File Wrapper record reveals that a paper titled "Amendment" was filed on July 5, 2007, and that the prosecution of the application is not closed.
3. The Office's financial records reveal that the 11.5 year maintenance fee due by May 4, 2005 (the end of the maintenance fee grace period), was not paid.
4. The '018 patent expired at midnight on May 4, 2005, for failure to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee due.<sup>1</sup> Notice of the expiration of the '018 patent for failure to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee was published on June 28, 2005, in the *Official Gazette*.<sup>2</sup>

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

As pointed out above, the '918 reissue application is for reissue of the '018 patent; the '018 patent expired for failure to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee. A notice of the expiration of the '018 patent was published in the *Official Gazette*. Because the '018 patent expired for failure to pay the third maintenance fee, the Director of the USPTO

<sup>1</sup> See: MPEP § 2506, third paragraph.

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2005/week26/patexpi.htm>.

no longer has the authority under 35 U.S.C. § 251 to reissue the '018 patent. See *In re Morgan*, 990 F.2d 1230, 26 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1993). As stated in *Morgan*,

"The language of section 251 is unambiguous: the Commissioner has authority to reissue a patent only 'for the unexpired part of the term of the original patent.' Thus, **when Morgan's original patent expired on August 19, 1992, the Commissioner was divested of his reissue authority** because there no longer was an unexpired term of the patent for which Morgan's patent could be reissued. Morgan's appeal thus became moot." [990 F.2d at 1231, 26 USPQ2d at 1393; emphasis added]

Because the Director no longer has the authority under 35 U.S.C. § 251 to reissue the '018 patent, the Office intends to terminate the present reissue proceeding, and thereafter hold the '918 reissue application to be an abandoned application.

Applicants are hereby provided with a period of **30 DAYS** from the mailing of this ORDER to show cause why the Office should not terminate the present reissue proceeding.

If applicants propose to show cause why the present reissue proceeding should not be terminated, applicants' showing must include an explanation of why the proceeding should continue, in spite of the expiration of the original patent.

If applicants make a showing, the showing will be evaluated as to whether it provides sufficient basis as to why the present reissue proceeding should not be terminated. A failure to respond to this show cause order within the set 30-day period will result in the proceeding being terminated by default. If the present reissue proceeding is terminated, jurisdiction over the present application for reissue of the '018 patent will be returned to Technology Center Art Unit 3643 for processing as an abandoned application.

### CONCLUSION

1. Applicants are hereby provided with a period of 30 DAYS from the mailing of this ORDER to show cause why the Office should not terminate the present reissue proceeding.
2. Failure by applicants to respond to this show cause order within the set 30-day period will result in termination of the present reissue proceeding by default, followed by a mailing of a Notice of Abandonment in the '918 reissue application.
3. Jurisdiction over the '918 reissue application is being retained by the Office of Patent Legal Administration, pending a response by the applicants, or the expiration of time for a response.

4. Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Legal Advisor, at (571) 272-7728.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth M. Schor', is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth M. Schor

Senior Legal Advisor

Office of Patent Legal Administration